

ASB 2014: 'Reaching Out to Moor'

SUSANNA AIGA
Opinions Editor

There are two types of students on campus — one group focuses on individual excellence and the other also focuses on excellence of the community. The second type of student consists of members of the Associated Student Body (ASB). On a typical weekday, members of ASB can be seen working around campus, from helping freshmen find their classes to setting up activities in the quad. Last year, ASB's main goal was to influence all of Alhambra High to spend every waking and sleeping hour in shades of blue and gold. This year, ASB still intends to build upon school spirit, but their more immediate focus is to personally reach out to students.

To reach out to more students, ASB has to effectively communicate with the student body. Last year, the bulletin went paperless, provided in the form of a video broadcast as well as a readable version on the newly improved website. It was not the method of the bulletin that would make the difference, but rather the simple question of whether or not students actually received the messages. Giving the students the bulletin in class is the most effective way to

keep them up to date, but many teachers neglected to keep up with this responsibility. ASB plans to improve communication and involvement with teachers, and if this



is successful, teachers will communicate more with their students, who can then become more involved in school activities.

Additionally, in a technologically advanced society, communication through social media is the most logical approach to mass-inform students. ASB is increasing their use of Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr as well as the timeless method of post-

ing fliers across campus. If ASB can effectively promote their social media outlets to increase their "likes" and "followers," the problem of communication should be

absolved as a thing of the past.

Involvement in clubs has declined in past years, and ASB plans to stress the importance of leadership to club presidents during Inter Club Council meetings this year. They believe that if current leaders can inspire the underclassmen in their clubs, then clubs will be less likely to "die out." However, even if ASB is successful in prompting leaders to focus on raising club spirit, underclassmen may still be unwilling to step up to leadership positions. ASB's commitment to student participation on campus is commendable, but it is ultimately a student's decision whether they will invest in their club.

ASB has many ideas and plans for this upcoming year in terms of boosting communication and school spirit, but whether or not they will be effective still remains to be seen.

Are Advanced Placement (AP) Classes Beneficial to Students' Education?



SHELLEY LIN
Staff Writer

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ANGELA YANG
Editor in Chief

Many high school students are indecisive on whether to take AP courses. Although AP courses are stressful and difficult, they are beneficial during the process of college applications. Challenging oneself with these kind of classes teach responsibility and provide the experience of a college-level class.

During the process of applying to colleges, students' academic records are important. AP classes assist in meeting many private universities and Ivy League colleges' standards as well as allowing for a weighted Grade Point Average (GPA).

Students also learn how to manage their time and juggle their responsibilities. Learning how to balance time is essential, especially when students have other core and elective courses. Not only are time management skills enhanced, but researching skills are also improved due to the abundance of schoolwork.

Despite the price of an AP exam, credits are received if students receive a passing score. This may enable a student to skip a semester or longer in college, saving money. AP courses give an opportunity to explore different academic fields, which helps in their search for a major.

Taking AP courses also influences one to become more ambitious. Being in a room with many other students who are as competitive and willing to learn could make oneself more determined to try their best. These courses impress many universities and colleges, while also enhancing skills and responsibility.

A new school year is often accompanied by students debating which AP classes, if any, to take. AP classes may suit the ambitious student more than regular courses do and prove to be a great asset for college. However, many students now only take these classes for the GPA boost and for bragging rights on college applications rather than for truly gaining insight and perspective on the subject.

While AP classes may stimulate a student's mind, piling on too many can also place too much stress on a student and even counteract the purpose of these classes. Oftentimes, those who are motivated to take AP classes take multiple in a school year, even up to four. As such, the focus for these students may start to shift from truly gaining knowledge to merely trying to complete their homework on time. Challenging oneself is certainly not a bad thing; however, it becomes detrimental when

it starts contributing to stress, anxiety and deterioration in health (such as missing meals and lacking sleep), all of which may result in future repercussions and ailments. AP classes have their benefits, of course, such as thought-provoking coursework and the potential to earn college credit. However, when they cause a decline in one's wellbeing, one must evaluate if an AP class truly suits them. The pressures of AP classes, coupled with other societal and extracurricular responsibilities, may ultimately prove to be more harmful than advantageous.

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MOOR graphics by SAMMIE CHEN



CROSSING
THE CARO-
LINE

Over the Pacific

CAROLINE REN
Editor in Chief

In June, for the first time in seven years and for the third time in my entire life, I visited China, a place as familiar as it is foreign to me. Though I could mostly understand the widely-spoken Mandarin, I was unable to read any store signs or make comfortable conversation, unaccustomed to using the language myself.

During my visit, I realized how different China is from the San Gabriel Valley, which has a fairly large concentration of Asians and Asian-Americans. China is, in many ways, still very old-fashioned, and is struggling to catch up in its development. The hustle and bustle never stops, and the streets are always crowded with people and activity. In comparison, Alhambra is empty and slow-paced.

I wondered if I had become out of touch with my culture, born and raised in the United States and only rarely visiting the country my parents had emigrated from. I celebrate Lunar New Year, but in a moderate fashion, and I use chopsticks to eat, although I hold them incorrectly. Somehow, I have become the product of two countries, one of which I have spent approximately two months or less visiting in total.

However, I cannot help but be grateful that I have been able to experience life in both China and the U.S., although I will perhaps always be a little out of place in either one. Ultimately, I am thankful that I have the best of both worlds.

MOOR photos by SHANNON KHA



Single-Gender Online Classes Are Another Option

JANET GUAN
Copy Editor

All-girls schools and all-boys schools are scattered across the U.S., but the option of having a single-gender online class has not been available until four private girls' schools collaborated in 2009 to form the first single-gender online school and online private school for middle to high school students. Online School for Girls has included international students since its start, and plans to implement and advise an all-boys program this school year.

Having a single-gender class as an option is beneficial, since some students may feel more comfortable in that environment. However, the controversial point of this program lies in separating the boys and girls. Online School for Girls mentions in its history page that people of different genders don't learn the same way. The association is based on various studies, from how girls learn best when using technology to how stereotypes affect learning. Scientists may have concluded from studies that genders learn differently, but

everyone has varying learning styles regardless of gender. One girl will have separate preferences compared to another girl, and the same applies to boys. Rather than separating genders on the basis that they learn in distinct ways, single-gender classes should be treated as an option for students who may feel more comfortable in that environment. As long as the students are provided the same classes to choose from, and the classes are not taught differently, Online School for Girls and Online School for Boys are just alternatives for learning.